

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for chromate-free outer coating of a ~~pipe~~
pipe with a fluidized bed and a pulverulent fusible polymer as a coating material, the
processcomprising

cleaning the pipe with a pretreatment system,

applying a primer to the pipe,

baking the primer with an induction coil at a frequency of from 2,000 to 10,000 Hz,

coating the pipe with a coating material in a fluidized-bed coating basin comprising
an induction coil incorporated in said fluidized-bed coating basin, an air flush system
positioned above the pipe to eliminate powder accumulation and one or more metal flow-
guide panels positioned below the pipe to eliminate powder deficit and resultant pores on the
underside of the pipe,

wherein the coating material comprising one or more pulverulent fusible polymers to
form a coated pipe having a polymer coating,

melting the polymer coating by heating with an induction coil at a frequency of from
2,000 to 10,000 Hz to form a pipe having a melt coating, and cooling to form a pipe having a
hardened coating, and

wherein the pipe is not treated with chromate.

Claim 2 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material comprises a polyamide.

Claim 3 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material comprises at least one of nylon-11 or nylon-12.

Claim 4 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material comprises nylon-12 in the form of a precipitated powder.

Claim 5 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating has a thickness of from 50 to 1,000 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed 30%.

Claim 6 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating has a thickness of from 50 to 300 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed 30%.

Claim 7 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hardened coating has a thickness of from 50 to 300 μm and a mean deviation of thickness does not exceed 20%.

Claims 8 and 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the primer comprises a solvent, and baking comprises evaporating the solvent.

Claim 11 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 10, further comprising dissipating the evaporated solvent with a radial fan.

Claims 12- 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising

smoothing the coated pipe having a polymer coating by heating with an induction coil at a frequency of from 2,000 Hz to 10,000 Hz before melting the polymer coating.

Claim 16 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising applying an adhesion promoter to the pipe, where the adhesion promoter is in the form of a suspension, a solution or a powder.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cooling to form a pipe having a hardened coating comprises pre-cooling the pipe having a melt coating with an air flush system then cooling with water to form the pipe having a hardened coating.

Claim 18 (Cancelled):

Claim 19 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein only the external surface of the pipe is coated.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A pipe coated by a chromate-free process, comprising a primer layer and a polymer coating layer applied in a fluidized-bed coating process.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein after the primer is baked and before the pipe is coated, the process further comprises preheating the

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pipe with an induction coil at a frequency of from 2,000 to 10,000 Hz.